342 In the walls there are many niches of various sizes, decorated with arabesques and sometimes with a painting of a flower, without perspective. The depiction of animals or humans is strictly forbidden by the Koran. In addition to this, the rich decorate the ceilings with bright colors and make their windows, if not of glass, at least with decorated wooden or plaster lattices. The floors of the houses are either of earth or paved with flat square fire brick.

Sart houses and the old clay partitions, which always have many cracks, are inhabited [136] by 'falanga' (a kind of poisonous spider) and scorpions. The sting of the falanga, if precautionary measures are not observed, can be very painful and can sometimes be fatal.

The living quarters are divided into two halves: the men's and the women's (the harem). Usually below the harem there is another deeper courtyard.

352 /390/ There is no furniture. The furnishing of the rooms consists of Russian chests sometimes covered by rugs. The rich also cover their floors with rugs or carpets without nap (palas). They do not make stoves. 354 In order to keep warm in winter, they put hot coals in a hollowed out place in the middle of the room, or simply into a clay vessel (pan), and over this they put a stool. The stool is covered with a blanket and its ends touch the ground. Then the Sart sits or lies around the heater and covers his feet with the blanket.

341 In their construction they use neither a level nor a plumb line, so that all the

341 buildings come out crooked and not beautiful. There are no architects and everyone builds as he knows best. The living quarters are in general somber, damp and dark, which gives birth to eye diseases, in addition to which, 363 the houses are not solid. The streets in the towns are crooked and narrow, so much so that the native vehicle, the two wheeled 'arba', can pass only on the main streets. On the side streets a horseman often has difficulty getting through.

The main streets are sometimes improved with cobblestones, but these pavements rarely protect a town from the mud.

366 Stalls, tea-houses and barber shops extend along both sides of the main street leading from the main gates to the middle of the town, to the trading square. This square is usually called 'rigistan'.

312 The towns and villages are provided with water from 'aryks' (irrigation canals) which also serve to irrigate the neighboring gardens, fields and kitchen gardens. Wells help the aryks as well.

361 The general appearance of the populated places makes a very unattractive impression. The only adornment of Central Asian settlements is a mass of verdure which in most cases covers the towns and villages.

364 The conditions of life in all the settlements are just as inconvenient as the native houses from the hygienic point of view. The population does not worry in the least about